

March 7, 2001

***Chairman Henry J. Hyde  
Statement Before the Committee on House Administration  
Regarding H.Res. 58 Committee Funding Resolution***

## **OPENING STATEMENT**

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Members of this Committee for giving Tom Lantos and me the opportunity to present the budget request of the International Relations Committee for the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Our relationship with other countries are as important (some of us believe more important) as they were in 1790 when Ben Franklin sat as Chairman on this Committee. The world has become globalized and the U.S. is very much a part of that globalization. The decisions we make with respect to our policy and involvement toward other countries are as important as any decisions this Congress makes.

Congress' impact on and shaping of foreign policy is done through its International Relations Committee. We not only oversee and authorize funding for the operations of the Department of State, we have legislative and oversight jurisdiction for foreign assistance, the United Nations, export policy, and sanctions measures, including curtailing the threat of weapons of mass destruction.

To do the job we think we can do and what we believe is expected of us by the Congress and the American people we need the staff and an adequate budget to support the Committee's initiatives. That's why we are here today to ask for your support.

Lest anyone think that our request is extraordinary, it should be noted that several other major committees have asked for increases far exceeding our request.

## **TALKING POINTS, 107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS BUDGET**

- Our request for the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress is \$14,495,256. This request represents \$3,181,725 more or a 28.1% increase over budget authority in 106<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- Of the total request for 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, 93.3% represents staff salaries. Specifically, the Committee has three unique personnel requirements: (1) a sixth subcommittee, whose jurisdiction covers a wide region of the world – Middle East and South Asia; (2) new oversight responsibilities at the full committee level; and (3) parliamentary activities and receipt of distinguished visitors – activities strictly unique to HIRC – carried out by existing staff and existing budget. In addition to year-end financial and conference reports, all arrangements for these meetings -- including logistics, protocol, financial accounting, and compilation of background materials -- are carried out by our committee staff. (The Senate has a separate office to handle these functions, with an annual budget of \$180,000 for salaries, and additional funds for operating expenses provided by the Secretary of the Senate.)
- I am pleased to note that this budget request provides fully one-third of the budget for salaries and one-third of the staff, excluding shared administrative staff, for the Minority.

## 2001 Salaries

- 2001 total budget request of \$7,003,845 represents an increase of \$1,325,314 or 23.3% over the 2000 total allocation. Of this amount, staff salaries increase is \$1,155,420 or 87% of the total increase over 2000. \$745,000 or 64.5% of this amount is for 9 new staff positions. If the \$745,000 were eliminated, the salary increase would only be a very modest 7.7%.
- Six of these new positions, representing \$500,000 in new salary money, account for 43.3% of the total salary increase. These six positions were effectively created when the Leadership and the House Rules package for the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress granted HIRC a 6<sup>th</sup> subcommittee in order for it to fill a jurisdictional void in the global areas of the Middle East and South Asia. Practically, however, as is done with all our subcommittees, an additional new full committee position is added, both on the Republican and Democratic staff, to act as liaison with the new subcommittee, so in reality the creation of the 6<sup>th</sup> subcommittee requires 6 of the 9 new slots, representing 67% of the total increase for new slots. Absent the funding request for these six slots, the salary increase over last year would be only 12.3%.
- The additional 3 slots will ensure adequate oversight at both the majority and minority full committee level, of areas such as trade & export policy and U.S. Dept. of State activities, which once fell under the jurisdiction of former subcommittees.

- My intention is to emphasize oversight more than in the past. Billions and billions of dollars are disbursed through a maze of programs – some justified and some not. Particularly, when you consider foreign aid, the question arises “Who is minding the store?”.
- I hope to take a look with the GAO at how effectively these programs are operating and where savings can be made or more emphasis supplied. To do this vital job will require top-flight personnel and salaries. It is my hope and expectation that the results will more than justify the expenditures.
- Let me also hasten to add that of the 9 new slots, 4 slots are designated for the Minority, which will give them 1/3 of the staffing slots.
- In addition to the \$745,000 increase for new staff slots, the remainder of the increase is attributed to the following: (1) \$60,000 added to 2000 base salaries for “in-house” printer, who replaces a GPO detailee; (2) \$175,451 for the 2001 COLA, not effective until April 1, 2001; (3) \$100,000 for select meritorious raises at different times during 2001; and (4) \$75,000 for lumpsum leave payouts. We have already expended approximately \$30,000 for departing staff not retained by the new chairman. We expect others to join the administration, so we will need additional funds for this purpose.

### 2002 Salaries

- As to the increase in our salary request from 2001 to 2002,

the increase of \$541,470 is attributed to the following: (1) \$58,483 needed to annualize the 2001 COLA; (2) \$91,000 needed to annualize the 2001 merit increases; (3) \$301,987 needed to grant the 4.6% 2002 COLA; (4) \$125,000 needed to grant select merit raises at different times during 2002; and (5) \$35,000 less needed in 2002 for lumpsum leave payments.

### Non-personnel categories

- Equipment: increase needed in 2001 to upgrade both computer and non-computer equipment to keep pace with technological advances. For example, we are in desperate need of a new file server. Currently, there is limited space on the existing file server that provides service to both majority and minority staff and no backup domain for this environment. We also need photocopiers that serve as document/network centers so that all staff and Member offices can share information without geographical barriers. (Our offices are spread among 2 buildings and floors.) Due to the uncertainty of the committee chairmanship and the possibility of numerous staff changes, we elected not to purchase any year-end equipment in 2000, reserving funds to cover departing staff.

### Summary

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman and other members of the Committee, let me stress that we believe that our request provides us with the necessary resources to effectively carry out our oversight and legislative responsibilities. Our jurisdiction spans across the Department of State, Department of Defense and Department of Commerce, and numerous other smaller agencies, numbering over

100,000 personnel and well over \$300 billion in resources. We need adequate funding to compete with these agencies and do our job. Our funding request allows us to be proactive not just reactive to events and situations that will undoubtedly arise as our nation forges ahead in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.